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SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO SYMINGTON SUBCOMMITTEE TRANSCRIPT

1. PRESS (NY TIMES, WASHINGTON POST) GAVE MAIN PLAY TO ALLEGATION THAT ROK TROOP PRESENCE IN VIET-NAM HAS COST U.S. DOLS 1 BILLION. INCLUDED IN THIS FIGURE WERE SUCH ITEMS AS THOS FOR PROCUREMENT (DOLS 195 MILLION) AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES (DOLS 320 MILLION) WHICH WRE UNRELATED TO DIRECT COSTS OF MAINTAINING ROK TROOPS. NO RECOGNITION WAS GIVEN TO FACT THAT THESE FUNDS, IF NOT DIRECTED TO KOREA TO BOLSTER LATTER'S ECONOMY, WOULD HAVE IN ANY EVENT BEEN EXPENDED ELSEWHERE. BOTH TIMES AND POST NOTED THAT CURRENT ANNUAL COST TO U.S. TO MAINTAIN A ROK SOLDIER IN VIET-NAM WAS ABOUT DOLS 5,000 AS AGAINST DOLS 13,000 FOR AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

2. TIMES (HALLORAN) SUMMARIZED EXCHANGE REGARDING REASONS WHY BROWN LETTER WAS KEPT SECRET. BOTH TIMES AND POST NOTED THAT NO GUARANTEE HAD BEEN MADE TO ROK AGAINST AMERICAN TROOP REDUCTIONS, AND ADDED THAT SINCE DATE OF HEARING REDUCTION HAD IN FACT BEEN ANNOUNCED. HALLORAN COMMENTED THAT ROKS HAD

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OPPOSED REDUCTION AND WERE PRESSING FOR DOLS 3 BILLION IN
ADDITIONAL MAP.

3. ROK EFFORTS TO OBTAIN "MORE AUTOMATIC" RESPONSE TO ATTACK
WERE REPORTED IN POST. ONLY REFERENCE TO NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS
APPEARED IN TIMES WHICH STATED THAT PORTER TESTIMONY, "ALTHOUGH
CENSORED, CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS HAD CONDUCTED
ARMED RAIDS INTO NORTH KOREA".

4. MARQUIS CHILDS SEPTEMBER 14 COLUMN HEADED "PARTNERS IN
WAR HAVE COSTLY TAG", STATED THAT TRANSCRIPT REVEALS
"STARTLING FACTS HITHERTO KEPT SECRET". CHILDS ASSERTS THAT
ROK TROOPS WERE "ESSENTIALLY MERCENARIES. THEY MAY NOT HAVE
FOUGHT ...SOLELY FOR PAY. BUT THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE TO
VIET-NAM IF THEIR GOVERNMENT HAD NOT EXACTED A HIGH PRICE
FOR THEIR COMMITMENT." CHILDS STORY ALSO TOOK SAME LINE AS
OTHER TWO THAT COST TO U.S. FOR KOREAN FORCE WAS JUST UNDER
DOLS 1 BILLION.

5. NO QUESTIONS REGARDING TRANSCRIPT WERE RAISED AT DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN'S NOON BRIEFING TODAY. ROGERS

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